

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4235
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS SOFIA 0431

ATHENS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, BU
SUBJECT: BULGARIA TO EXPAND SOYA OUTPUT

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS ITEM IN MARCH 7 ISSUE OF
ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME, ONE MILLION DECARES OF LAND ARE TO
BE DEVOTED TO SOYA THIS YEAR. WITH AVERAGE YIELD OF
180 KG PER DECARE, PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO BE
180,000 TONS. BY 1980 IT IS EXPECTED THAT SOME TWO
MILLION DECARES OF SOYA WILL BE PLANTED.

2. THE ARTICLE THEN CANDIDLY DISCUSSES SOME PROBLEMS
ASSOCIATED WITH SOYA PRODUCTION. PRODUCTION COSTS
ARE HIGH IN PART BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE HARVESTING EQUIP-
MENT WITH LOW PRODUCTIVITY (30-60 HECTARES PER 12 HOURS).
LOSSES RESULTING FROM THIS INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT AMOUNT
TO 10 PERCENT WITH ADDITIONAL 20 PERCENT OF THE GRAIN
BROKEN AT HARVEST. THESE LOSSES AMOUNT TO 25-30 THOUSAND
TONS OF SOYA WORTH 15-16 MILLION LEVA ANNUALLY. THE
ARTICLE CLAIMS, HOWEVER, THAT SERIAL PRODUCTION OF A
NEW SOYA HARVESTING ATTACHMENT FOR EXISTING COMBINES
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WILL BEGIN SOON AND THAT PRODUCTIVITY SHOULD THEN
DOUBLE.

3. IN ADDITION, DRYING HOUSE FACILITIES ARE SAID TO
BE ADEQUATE FOR ONLY 50-60 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION. THE
ARTICLE FINALLY CRITICIZES THE PRACTICE OF EXPENDING
\$900,000 IN HARD CURRENCY FOR OSOYASEEDS, AND ALLEGES

THAT BULGARIA SHOULD INSTEAD BE AN EXPORTER OF SEEDS.
THE DSO "SORTOVI SEMENA I POSADUCHEN MATERIAL" IS SAID
TO BE IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZING THE SOYA SEED PRODUCTION
EFFORT.
GARTHOFF

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NNN

Message Attributes

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